

Lesson 4: Wants and Needs

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What do communities provide for the people who live in them?
- What are the needs of people in communities?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- Goods and services are what we buy to satisfy our wants and needs.
- A **need** is something we must have to be healthy or safe.
- A **want** is something we would like to have.

🕒 Skills

- Complete graphic organizers (LA)
- Examine wants and needs of people in a community (SS)
- Put numbers in sequential order (M)
- Identify examples of wants and needs (SS)
- Sort and classify objects (S)

✂ Materials

- books about other countries
- construction paper (kit)
- glue or tape
- glue or tape* (Activity 3 - Option 1)
- magazines, catalogs, and newspapers
- scissors
- scissors* (Activity 3 - Option 1)

Introduction

Ask your child to think about something he wants. Then ask him to think of something he needs. Ask him what the difference is between wants and needs. We buy goods and services to satisfy our wants and needs.

Activities

Activity 1: My Wants and Needs

Explain that a want is something that would be nice to have and a need is something that we must have to be healthy and safe. On the page called "My Wants and Needs," your child will list five wants and five needs. Then ask him to number them in order from 1 to 10 — from the most important to the least important. Ask him the following questions:

- Was the item you had as number 1 a want or a need?
- Did you have more needs or wants at the top of your list?
- Is there anything on your list that you said was a need but is actually a want?
- Do you think wants or needs are more important? Why?
- What if you got all your wants and none of your needs?

- What if you got all your needs and none of your wants?

Activity 2: Wants and Needs Collage

Give your child a variety of different catalogs, magazines, and newspapers. Give him two pieces of construction paper and ask him to label one "Wants" and the other "Needs."

Let him cut pictures out of the catalogs, magazines, and newspapers. Then ask her to decide if each item collected is a want or a need. Ask him to glue or tape these pictures to the appropriate page to create a collage.

Activity 3: Meeting Needs

Explain to your child that a girl named Jessie is new in the community, and she does not know where to go to have her needs met. Ask your child if he knows what people need to live and grow. If not, explain that people need water, food, shelter, and clothing in order to live in their communities. Tell your child that Jessie needs to know where she can find these things in your community.

Choose one of the following options for your child to complete.

Option 1

For this activity, on the "Meeting Needs" (Option 1) page, your child will find four circles labeled *water*, *food*, *clothing*, and *shelter*. Each of the squares on the bottom of the page shows a location or item that will help Jessie meet one of her needs. Ask your child to cut out each of the squares and determine whether Jessie could find water, food, shelter or clothing at this place. Ask your child to paste each square in the appropriate circle.

Option 2 (advanced)

On the "Meeting Needs" (Option 2) page is a bubble map. It is a way for students to organize information and show connections and relationships. On this sheet, your child will find three labeled bubbles. In the bubbles that surround the labeled bubble, your child will draw and label three examples that would show Jessie where she could go to have her needs met in the community. For example, the three bubbles surrounding "food" could be *refrigerator*, *grocery store*, and *garden*.

Activity 4: Living in America

Explain to your child that most people in America have enough money to buy everything they need, but in other places around the world, that is not always the case. Look at pictures of other countries in books or on the Internet. Discuss the similarities and differences in the clothing, homes, transportation, and food. As Americans we are very lucky; most people in America do not have to worry about water, food, shelter, or clothing. Explain that in some parts of the world, people do not have clean water to drink and they can even get sick from drinking the water. There also may not be medicine available when they are sick.

Tell your child about some ways that people in America help people in other countries. Some people give money to organizations that help children have enough food and go to school. Explain that some people volunteer to go to communities in other parts of the world to help the people by teaching the children and giving medicine to sick people.

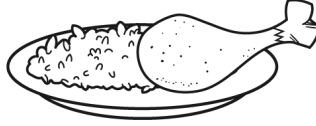
If your family or church supports an international program to help people in other parts of the world, talk about it with your child. If not, it could be a great experience for your child. There are also many opportunities around the holidays for helping in this way.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to describe the difference between a want and a need. Ask him why needs are more important than wants.

My Wants and Needs

Directions: List 5 wants and 5 needs. Then number them in order from most important to least important using the boxes.



Needs

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Wants

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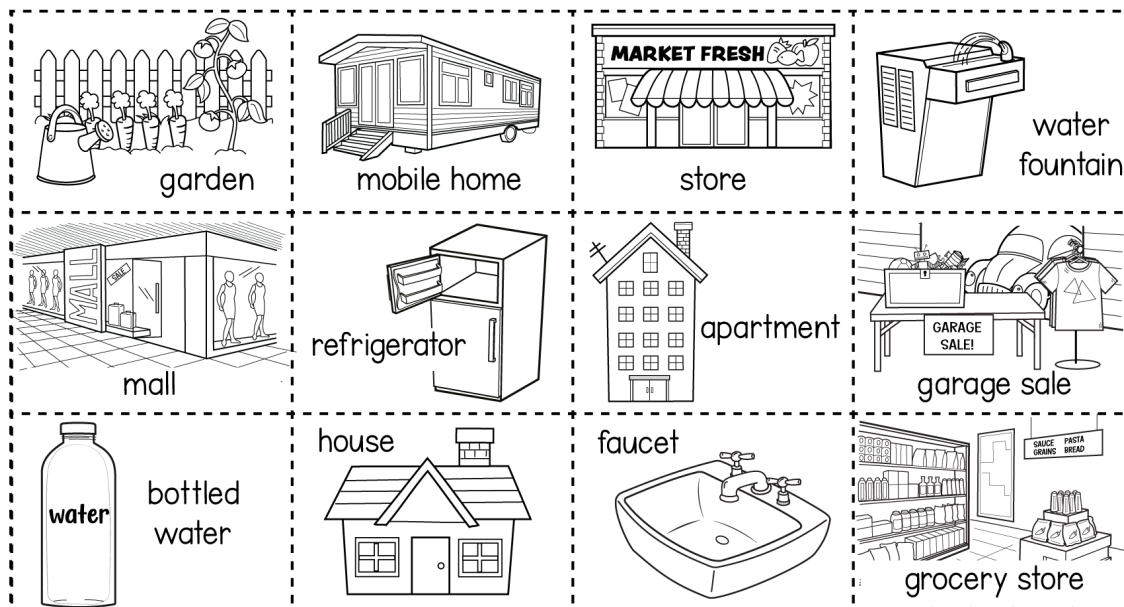
Meeting Needs

Water

Clothing

Food

Shelter

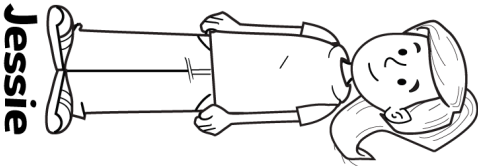


Jessie



Meeting Needs

Directions: Fill in the bubble map to show Jessie where she could go to have her needs met in the community.



Jessie

